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New Orleans DA Spurns FBI Help In JFK Death Plot

Combined Wire Service

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 20—A district attorney is keeping secret the details of an investigation he says he is making of the Kennedy assassination, contending federal intervention might only slow him down.

Jim Garrison, betting his investigators can prove a conspiracy in New Orleans led to the death of President Kennedy, spurned a suggestion he give his facts to the U.S. Attorney General who could pass it on to President Johnson.

"I am running this investigation, not the President, not the Attorney General," said Garrison.

"I'm in charge of the operation and we've made a lot of progress working this way. So I don't propose to make any changes that might result in a slowdown and make us less effective."

NO COMMENT

Asked what the Federal Bureau of Investigation is doing about Garrison's probe, an FBI spokesman said, "The only thing I can say regarding any questions about that is, 'No comment'."

After New Orleans newspapers broke the story of his investigation on Friday, Garrison said "irresponsible release of so many details" would delay the arrests he said would be forthcoming.

The release of details and names, he said, "has now created a problem for us in finding witnesses and getting cooperation from other witnesses and in at least one case has endangered the life of a witness ~~a possible witness~~ so that whatever timetable we might have had before is somewhat extended now."

In another development a former private detective says five persons were involved with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy, and he knows their identities.